

# Center for Youth Development and Intervention (CYDI)

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SPRING 2021

## Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Bradley White

Dr. White is an associate professor in Psychology at CYDI where he directs the Cognition, Emotion, and Self-Regulation (CEaSR) Lab. He is a licensed psychologist who works with a range of mental health problems in children, adolescents, and adults across clinical, correctional, and community settings. He serves various professional roles including as consulting editor of the *Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology* and co-editor of *The Oxford Handbook of Child and Adolescent Psychology*.



### What do you study and why?

We study the development, impact, and treatment of disruptive behavior problems in youth (e.g., aggression, rule-breaking). We study risk and protective factors for antisociality, and we design and test interventions to reduce disruptive and increase prosocial behavior (e.g., helping, cooperating). We are also interested in extending the reach of effective interventions to underserved individuals, families, and communities.

### What do you like best about Alabama?

I love UA and our wonderful colleagues and students, the weather (except the summer heat!), the diversity of the people as well as the natural habitats and wildlife of Alabama, and the outdoor recreation opportunities.

### What do you do in your free time?

I enjoy reading, hiking, biking, paddle boarding, swimming, and spending time with family.

# Cognition, Emotion, and Self-Regulation Lab

## OUR STUDIES

### **FAST: FACIAL AFFECT SENSITIVITY TRAINING FOR CHILDREN**

This study, funded by the National Institute of Mental health, tests a new computerized treatment for children 6 - 11 years old who do not have a prior diagnosis of autism and who experience certain difficulties, including not feeling guilty when they do something wrong and not being concerned for the feelings of others. Such difficulties can put children at risk for developing behavioral problems. Enrollment for this program is now open and there is no cost. Caregivers get a total of \$300 to finish the study and children earn small toys and some cash prizes. Interested? Contact Shane Jones via email at [jones178@ua.edu](mailto:jones178@ua.edu) or phone 205-348-3525.



***WE ARE RECRUITING!***



### **REACHING AT-RISK YOUTH THROUGH PEDIATRIC SERVICES**

Over 50% of mental health (MH) disorders emerge during childhood and adolescence, but many of these youth never receive treatment. Pediatric clinics often refer youth to MH services, but referred families do not always pursue services.

In collaboration with the University Medical Center, we are studying what prevents families from pursuing MH services after receiving a referral from a doctor. This study is led by Rebecca Revilla (doctoral student) with help from Drs. Bradley White, Jenny Cundiff and Abbey Gregg.

# Cognition, Emotion, and Self-Regulation Lab

## OUR STUDIES

### INTERNET-BASED COPING POWER

Our lab is working with Dr. John Lochman and colleagues to expand the knowledge of Coping Power (CP), an evidence-based intervention for youth at risk for aggression and related behaviors.

Meagan Heilman (doctoral student) has focused her research on a briefer internet-based version of CP and found that this version is feasible and may reduce proactive aggression. She is now studying if peer acceptance impacts CP outcomes.



### YOUTH TRAUMA & RESPONSE TO RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT

Over 50% of children in residential treatment programs have experienced trauma, which is related to maladaptive impacts such as increased psychopathology and decreased treatment response.

Breanna Dede (doctoral student) is working with a local youth residential treatment facility to study the relationships among trauma, risk behaviors, and response to the residential treatment milieu. She is also looking at gender, age, and race.

Go to the link below for the Center Registry Form to give us permission to contact you about applicable research studies!

[redcap.as.ua.edu/surveys/?s=PFK7MWMA37](https://redcap.as.ua.edu/surveys/?s=PFK7MWMA37)





# Studies Recruiting at CYDI

## L.E.A.P.

### Learning Emotion Awareness Program

LEAP is a new research project to see how well a brief online program can help children manage their emotions. LEAP will take place online twice a week for 10 weeks. Participation includes online questionnaires for parents and children.

- Limited time involvement
- Designed to help children manage their intense emotions
- Compensation for study-related assessment

Here are the requirements:

1. Children 9-11 years old
2. Have difficulty managing emotions
3. Access to internet and a device that can support Zoom

For more information or to make an appointment to participate, please contact me, Josh Golt, at [jdgolt@crimson.ua.edu](mailto:jdgolt@crimson.ua.edu) or (205) 348-6551



UA IRB Approved Document  
Approval date: 3/2/2021  
Expiration date: 1/20/2022

### Adolescent Friendship and Social Media Study

- Do you have an adolescent child (with or without a chronic illness) between the ages of 11 and 17 who uses social media like Facebook or Instagram?
- Are you interested in helping us understand how social media helps adolescents (with and without a chronic illness) stay connected while social distancing?



If you answered "yes" then you and your adolescent are eligible to participate in a research study that is examining the importance of friendships and social media use.

During this study:

- We will ask you and your adolescent to complete questionnaires about social media use and well-being.
- Your adolescent will also be asked to refer a close friend to the study and both will complete online questionnaires about friendship quality, support, hope, and coping.

**\$50 electronic gift cards will be raffled for participants (40 for adolescent participants and 20 for parents).**

If you or someone you know is interested, please contact: Dr. Deborah Casper at [dmcasper@ches.ua.edu](mailto:dmcasper@ches.ua.edu) for the link to the online consent form and survey or for more information about the study.

UA IRB Approved Document  
Approval date: 10-8-20  
Expiration date: 10-7-21



### BrainREAD: How Does The Brain Understand Language?

Lindamood-Bell Learning Processes, an organization dedicated to enhancing human learning, and the Cognition, Brain, & Autism Lab (CBa Lab) at the Department of Psychology, University of Alabama-Birmingham have teamed up on an exciting new research study aimed at investigating the impact of a comprehensive language based intervention program on brain structure, brain functioning, and brain connectivity in children with autism and children with reading comprehension difficulties.

#### Who can participate?

- Must be diagnosed with or meet the criteria for an Autism Spectrum Disorder OR have significant reading comprehension difficulties
- Must be between 7-13 years old
- Must be right-handed
- Must be a native English speaker
- Must not have braces or claustrophobia

#### What are the benefits?

The primary benefit will be that you get the opportunity to participate in an intensive intervention program free of cost. This training program might result in a significant improvement in your language comprehension.

#### What are we studying?

In this study, we are going to be observing how your brain responds when you read and understand words and sentences. Sometimes, you may be asked to read a sentence or a story and then decide whether it makes sense or not. Other times you might be asked to read a group of words and decide if the words go together.

As you work on the tasks, we will use a special type of brain scan that is called functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to see what your brain is doing. This machine uses a large magnet and radio waves to form images of your brain.

Visit  
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